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AUTHORITY

AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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IN REPLY REFER TO
AGAM-P (M) (11 May 67) FOR OT

16 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 73rd Signal
Battalion (SPT)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Forwarded as inclosure is Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 73rd Signal Battalion (SPT) for quarterly period ending 31 January 1967. Information contained in this report should be reviewed and evaluated by CDC in accordance with paragraph 6f of AR 1-19 and by CONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d of AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to the Commandants of the Service Schools to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham FEB 28 1967

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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FOR OT RD
670131 (Continued on page 2)

22

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 73RD SIGNAL BATTALION (SPT)
APO U. S. Forces 96312

SCCVNG-SS

13 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

THRU: ~~21~~ Commanding Officer Commander in Chief
21st Signal Group United States Army Pacific
APO 96240 APO 96558

Commanding General
1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM)
APO 96307

Commanding General TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force
United States Army Vietnam Development
APO 96307 Department of the Army (ACFOR, DA)
Washington, D.C. 20315

References: a. Department of the Army Regulation 1-19, dated 26 May 1966, Subject: Administration, Operational Reports - Lessons Learned, RCS CSFOR-65.

b. United States Army Vietnam Regulation 870-2, dated 19 July 1966, Subject: Historical Activities, Operational Reports - Lessons Learned, RCS CSFOR-65.

c. 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM) Regulation 870-2, dated 5 October 1966, Subject: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, RCS CSFOR-65.

d. 21st Signal Group Regulation 870-2, dated 20 October 1966, Subject: Operational report - Lessons Learned, RCS CSFOR-65.

SECTION I

SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATION AND UNIT ACTIVITIES

Preface

The 73rd Signal Battalion's area communication responsibility remained unchanged after the northern portion of Khanh-Hoa Province was reassigned to the 459th Signal Battalion on 4 November 1966. Organizational changes

(1)

FOR ROT RD
670131

2

SCCVNG-SS

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

involved loss of the 228th Signal Company and assignment of "D" and "E" Companies, 43rd Signal Battalion, (the latter two companies were activated at zero strength), on 28 October 1966. (These events were noted in previous report.)

Due to limited personnel and equipment resources only "E" Company was activated during this period, although administrative and logistical actions for activation of both companies were initiated. On 28 December 1966 Captain Carlton F. Roberson became the first Commanding Officer of "E" Company, as well as Site Commander of Lang Bian Mountain. The company also assumed control of Bao Loc and Gia Nhia Sites as it phased into operations during January 1967. The "D" Company property book and morning report are maintained by Battalion Headquarters, with only two personnel assigned.

The 362nd Signal Company was augmented by 12 TDY Tropo Detachments from the 11th Signal Group (COMUS) with accompanying personnel and AN/TRC-129 and AN/TRC-132 equipment, and six Tropo Detachments from the Sixth Army area. (The latter six Detachments did not include TCM Signal equipment.)

Command emphasis during the period was placed on improved control and reporting procedures to expedite circuit installation and restoration; and realignment of company missions and resources to improve distribution of personnel and equipment. This realignment will provide clearer areas of responsibility for each company commander and facilitate command control. Particular emphasis has been placed on relieving the 362nd Signal Company of functions not directly related to its Tropospheric Scatter Radio mission. Frequent command and staff inspections were made of all sites. The principle change in staff activity from the last report involved an increased amount of planning for future requirements. The Battalion was operational for the entire 92 day period with 24 days of integrated unit training.

3
SCCVNG-SS

13 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967
Reports Control Symbol CSFUR-65

1. PERSONNEL

a. The 73rd Signal Battalion authorized strength (Letter Headquarters 21st Signal Group, Subject: Personnel Authorization, 16 December 1966) is as follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>TO&E</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u> <u>AUTH/ASG</u>		<u>WO</u> <u>AUTH/ASG</u>		<u>E1</u> <u>AUTH/ASG</u>		<u>LOSSES</u>
HHD, 73rd Sig Bn	11-116D	10	12	2	2	34	59	3
Co C, 41st Sig Bn	11-87E	5	5	1	2	203	357	42
Co D, 43rd Sig Bn	*11-500D	5	0	0	0	125	2	0
Co E, 43rd Sig Bn	*11-500D	6	3	0	1	239	78	9
278th Sig Co	11-117D	9	7	4	2	337	328	10
362nd Sig Co (Tropic)	*11-500D	20	14	0	2	345	236	39
206th Sig Det	11-500D	1	0	0	0	8	14	1
220th Sig Det	11-500D	1	0	0	0	8	11	1
221st Sig Det	11-500D	1	1	0	0	8	11	0
224th Sig Det	11-500D	1	0	0	0	8	8	0
235th Sig Det	11-500D	1	0	0	0	8	9	1
506th Sig Det	11-500D	1	1	0	0	8	7	3
508th Sig Det	11-500D	1	1	0	0	8	6	0
608th Sig Det	11-500D	1	0	0	0	8	6	0
708th Sig Det	11-500D	1	1	0	0	8	6	0
808th Sig Det	11-500D	1	0	0	0	8	5	0
809th Sig Det	11-500D	1	1	0	0	8	6	0
810th Sig Det	11-500D	1	0	0	0	8	7	0

* Modified

SCCVNG-SS

13 February 1967

4

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967
Reports Control Symbol CSFUR-65

b. Personnel administration during this reporting period has involved the following actions and/or problems:

(1) The critical shortage of officers was relieved by arrival of replacements during January 1967.

(2) Reassignment instructions for rotating officers and non-commissioned officers are received more frequently than last quarter but a significant number of personnel have not received such instructions.

(3) Operational commitments beyond TOE capabilities directed by higher headquarters generally provide authorization for additional equipment, but do not always provide authorization for appropriate personnel. Although personnel are provided in many cases, absence of personnel authorizations precludes requisitioning of replacements. For example, termination of the TDY of the personnel of the 12 Tropo Detachments from 11th Signal Group without relief from the operational commitment severely overtaxes available personnel.

(4) Deployment of the 362nd Signal Company (Tropo) throughout South Vietnam makes it difficult to maintain accurate personnel accounting due to unreliability of mail and lack of trained personnel clerks. This has necessitated transfer of their function from the company to the battalion personnel section.

(5) A program to rotate officers and key NCO's was initiated to provide continuity of Battalion staff and command opportunity for potential career officers. The S-4, Captain Glenn Koors, assumed command of C Co/41st Sig Bn, relieving Captain Albert Jones, who was assigned to the S-3 Section. Captain Harold Parker, of the S-3 Section, assumed command of the 278th Signal Co, relieving Captain Robert Anderson, who was assigned to the S-3 Section. Rotation of NCO's between C Co, 41st Sig Bn, and the 278th Sig Co is planned for March 1967 to reduce the impact of rotation in both units.

(6) Unit Personnel Rosters from command Data Processing Units are arriving late for effective verification and data utilization. Morning reports of the Sixth Army Tropo Detachments have not yet arrived in country, complicating strength accounting. The Unit Personnel Rosters from the 7th DPU are sent directly to the companies, resulting in approximately 30 day delay in receipt at Battalions.

(7) Directed conversions of PMOS were accomplished for MUS's 36A, 36B, and 36C. Trained tactical Circuit Controllers were converted to the 31N PMOS. Pay clerks were also converted to personnel specialist (71J to 71H) and are to be transferred to larger F&AO's.

5
SCCVNG-SS

13 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

(8) Individual Emergency Data records were updated to indicate selection of a pay option plan.

c. The following analysis of critical MOS's compares authorized against assigned strength. As noted in paragraph 1b(3), above, this does not reflect operating requirements. MTOE's are being prepared to request authorizations appropriate to current commitments. This situation necessitates a continuous detailed program of Personnel and Equipment Resources Analysis in each functional area to assure equitable distribution of available assets. Critical MOS's are as shown below:

-(1) Radio Operators (05B and 05C): Assigned strength is 64% of authorized, with 9 known 90 days losses. The understrength is in "D" and "E" Companies, 43rd Sig Bn, which have not received their HF radio equipment. At such time as these units assume their full HF/SSB radio mission, this shortage will become critical.

-(2) Microwave Radio Repairmen (26L) and Fixed Plant Carrier Repairmen (32E): The 26L assigned strength is 88% of authorized. When assigned 32E are included with the 26L's, assigned strength is 82.5% of authorized strength. The twelve 11th Sig Gp TDY Tropo Detachments, however, have not been included in this authorization. The TDY for personnel of these teams terminates on 15 February and they are returning to their home station. Their equipment will remain committed and must be operated by assigned personnel. Detailed analysis requirements, considering conditions and physical arrangements on each tropo site as well as the maintenance facility, indicates a minimum essential staffing of 260, with 297 considered a more realistic minimum the 362nd Sig Co commander. Allowing for known losses, and a gain of 42 in February, the unit will be short approximately 40 personnel from the lower estimate, and 80 personnel short from the unit commanders estimate. Higher headquarters are cognizant of these shortage and the critical nature of the situation.

(3) Tactical Circuit Controllers (31N): Assigned strength is 69% of authorized. The authorization does not include personnel required to operate the MSQ-73 Circuit Control Centers presently being installed. This situation will become critical if trained personnel are not received.

(4) Area Communications Chief (31Z): Although assigned strength is 38% of authorized, it is not considered critical. The MOS can be held only by E-7's and above. Skilled lower grade personnel are performing in these positions.

(5) Fixed Station Technical Controllers (32D): Assigned strength is 75% of authorized, but the majority of the shortage is in the senior grades. In that the experience level in this MOS is significant to overall systems efficiency, it is felt this MOS is critical.

SCCVNG-SS

13 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967
Reports Control Symbol CSFUK-65

6

(6) Automotive Maintenance Apprentice (63A) and Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic (63B): Assigned strength is 83% of authorized.

The shortage is considered critical due to adverse terrain conditions (e.g., Cam Ranh sand, monsoon rains, and mountain roads). Experience and skill levels are extremely important in these MOS's.

(7) Communication Center Specialist (72B): Assigned strength is 65% of authorized and the shortage is obviously critical. It has been overcome at several locations by utilizing personnel assigned to units not operating communication center equipment. Such local arrangements, however, are not considered satisfactory.

(8) Teletype Repairman (31J): assigned strength is 50% of authorized. This MOS is critical, especially in view of increasing traffic volume, higher speed circuits, and increased number of teletype circuits.

(9) Switchboard Operator (72C): Assigned strength is 75% of authorized. The shortage necessitates extensive OJT of other MOS personnel. It is felt this shortage is critical due to oversaturation of switchboards. Cutover to the Cam Ranh Dial Central Office will relieve this situation in the next quarter.

(10) Food Service Apprentice (94A) and Cook (94B): Assigned strength is 72% of authorized. This MOS is especially critical in view of the requirement to operate messes on several isolated sites as well as feed various detachments at unit messes.

2. OPERATIONS:

a. Staff visits by key personnel to all sites provided the biggest impetus to improved operational efficiency during the report period. There was a continued growth of the Army, Air Force and Navy Bases at Cam Ranh, Dong Ba Thin, Phang Rang and Phan Thiet, with increased demands on the area communications systems.

b. Multichannel VHF and cable carrier systems increased from 25 to 26 despite the realignment of area responsibilities. The present commitment of AN/FRT-24 and AN/TCC-7 equipment has created a shortage of back-up equipment. Arrival of AN/GKC-50 radio relay equipment during January will provide relief from this situation. This equipment will be put into operation to replace line-of-sight VHF systems during February when deprocessing and operator training are completed. Installation of the 300 and 100 multipair cable from Hill 184 to Beaver site has permitted deactivation of many cable carrier systems, although some systems must be retained as back-up to the cable. Radio Relay systems supporting the Republic of Korea forces in the

7
SCCVNG-SS

13 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967
Reports Control Symbol SCFUR-65

Cam Ranh Area were reconfigured to improve efficiency and command control, as well as economize on personnel and equipment. One VHF site was eliminated. Return of the 3rd Plat, 278th Sig Co, from Pleiku will permit upgrading of the Dong Ba Thin area Signal Center. The 2nd Plat., 278th Sig Co., remains at the Tuy Hoa Phu Hiep area under operational control of A Co, 459th Signal Bn. Establishment of the relay site on Hon Tre permitted a new VHF system between Dong Ba Thin and Nha Trang, and another was installed from Phan Thiet to Saigon area via relay. New systems were installed also from Cam Ranh to the Air Base and the North Cantonment area.

c. High-frequency radio commitments remained unchanged. HF radio operations have focused on improving procedures and antennas systems. Military Amatuer Radio operations have been expanded with installation of antennas and improved user facilities.

d. Tropospheric scatter radio operations of the 362nd Signal Company were expanded with the arrival of six new signal detachments and the completion of five addition systems. Present plans call for the relocation of one of the Pleiku - Lang Bian Mountain systems to connect Dragon Mountain, Pleiku, with Ban Me Thout.

e. Communications Center teletype and motor messenger traffic continued to increase significantly. The Cam Ranh Army Class IV Communications Center plan was received in mid-January by the 35th Engineer Group and building construction should commence shortly. The Dong Ba Thin Communications Center Project is being reengineered. The Communications Centers at Cam Ranh, Dong Ba Thin and Phan Rang increased their traffic capacity by four circuits. Cam Ranh relay capability was increased by installation of an AN/MGC-23, which will operate eight full duplex circuits. Dalat has installed an AN/MGC-17 which will terminate a full duplex circuit to Cam Ranh Bay and provide cryptographic capability.

f. Expansion of switchboard facilities continued. The six major switchboards in the battalion area increased the total long distance trunks by over 100%, (from 80 to 178), and the daily average of calls processed increased from 10,330 to 13,800. A Long Distance switchboard, SB-86, was installed on Lang Bian Mountain as part of the Interim Southeast Asia tandem switchboard plan. The SB-86 was later replaced by an AN/MTC-7, Telephone Central Office. At Phan Rang there are now 150 local lines off the Army switchboard, an increase of 70 lines. In addition, Phan Rang is responsible for 20 circuits off the Air Force Flightline switchboard, and maintaining spiral-four field cables to MACV Advisor's headquarters and along the POL pipeline. The Phan Rang installation has expanded to include over 100 miles of spiral-four cable and 6 to 7 miles of 25 and 50 pair cable. Subscriber telephones on the Cam Ranh Bay local switchboard, which was over-saturated at completion of the last quarter, remained relatively unchanged. Extensions

SCCVNG-SS

13 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967
Reports Control Symbol SCFOR-65

increased, however, increasing operator workload and further degraded the system. The Supplemental Bill of Materials for the Cam Ranh DCU was received in January. The 35th Engineer Group completed the tile floor, lighting, and power installations. The wooden exterior of the building, however, has deteriorated somewhat and requires maintenance. Cutover to the dial exchange, programmed for 1 April 1967, will represent the most significant upgrading of communications for the Cam Ranh area. The Dial Central Office for Dong Ba Thin is awaiting construction by the 35th Engineer Group.

g. Six major cable projects have been or are presently being installed within the Battalion area, over 20,000 feet of 100 pair cable was installed between the Nha Trang Satcon site and the IWCS Technical Control. Two 100 pair cables, totalling 13,500 feet, were installed by the 3rd Platoon, 578th Sig Co, as a communications interconnect cable between the switchboard at MACV headquarters in Ban Me Thout and the tropospheric scatter site outside of the city. In Dalat a six man wire team from the 3rd Platoon is rehabilitating or replacing the tactical wire outside cable plant. They also have installed 5300 feet of 100 pair cable at Dong Ba Thin, 2300 feet buried and the remainder on poles. A cable distribution system is being installed at Phan Rang in the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division Base Camp. Dial service will be provided by the Air Force Dial Central Office. At the present time spiral-four cable is utilized for all lines off the Phan Rang Army switchboard. The Class IV multi-pair cable projects at Cam Ranh Bay, is being installed by Company B, 40th Signal Bn. Over 137,00 feet of buried 100 to 600 pair cable have been installed. Increased vehicle density and engineer construction has resulted in numerous breaks in tactical outside plant. During the monsoons the combined effect of heavy winds and intense rains caused the tactical metal poles installed in many routes to buckle. Despite 24 hour a day operations by the 3rd Platoon, 578th Sig Co, telephone service requests became backlogged 3 to 5 days. The existing workload precludes policing of non-operable lines until the outside buried cable plant is put into operation.

h. An interim autodin terminal van, utilizing IBM 1013 Data Transmitter, was installed by Company C, 41st Sig Bn, at the US Army Depot, Cam Ranh Bay. This terminal will provide 100 card per minute data transmission for the Depot, the Air Force Base and the 22nd Replacement Battalion.

i. To control these systems and circuits, two AN/MSQ-73's Technical Control Facility, were installed. The cutover plans for transferring circuits from the existing SB675's to the MSQ-73 have been submitted for Lang Bian Mountain and Pr'Line, and personnel are currently rewiring the circuits in the vans.

9
SCCVNG-SS

13 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967
Reports Control Symbol SCFOR-65

j. Integrated Wideband Communication System (IWCS) sites showed marked progress during this quarter. At Pri'Line construction is completed and equipment is in test. Construction at the Cam Ranh Bay site is nearing completion and installation of electronics should commence in the near future. The Phan Rang and Phan Thiet and Cam Ranh Air Base sites are currently under construction. Construction of the Dong Ba Thin site has not started. The Battalion has coordinated, or provided, assistance to Page Electronics personnel on all sites.

3. TRAINING AND ORGANIZATION:

a. Battalion organization remained unchanged. Action to complete the Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) discussed in the preceding quarterly report was suspended on instructions from higher headquarters. Recently these instructions were revoked and the MTOE, based on concepts and requirements stated in the previous report, is now being completed for submission in February. . . .

b. Training during the period has focused on OJT for Switchboard Operators (72C) and VHF/Carrier Attendants (31M). Some personnel are working OJT with Regional Communications Group personnel on the Interim Autodin facility. Operator maintenance, convoy procedures and counter-ambush techniques, driver training (or retraining), and weapons familiarization has been stressed for all personnel. School trained replacements are arriving in greater numbers. These personnel require additional training to impress them with a "Sense of Urgency" and expedite the improvement of their skill levels through field experience. Cross training on isolated sites continues. The Tropo Contingency Team located at Octopus Site, Saigon, participated in a one week equipment and systems operation training program with personnel of the 362nd Signal Co.

c. Selected personnel attended the following formal courses:

(1) New Equipment Training Team orientation (two days) on AN/GRC-106 HF SSB radios at Nha Trang.

(2) Cable splicer School (three weeks) conducted by the 40th Signal Bn at Long Bian.

(3) Technical Control Facility (AN/MSQ-73) School (3 weeks) conducted by 1st Signal Brigade at Saigon.

d. A program of instruction on GRC-50 radio relay equipment has been developed to train VHF/CXR operators and will be presented, in cycles, during February. (Instructor Training commenced the first week of February with assistance of ECOM representatives.)

10
SCCVNG-SS

13 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967
Reports Control Symbol SCFOR-65

e. Implementation of 1st Signal Brigade Regulation 350-1 gave formality to the Unit Training Program, although operational commitments and deployment of personnel to isolated sites will preclude immediate achievement of objectives. Acquisition of movie projectors by the majority of the companies has assisted in Unit Training, as well as improved troop entertainment facilities.

f. The command Information and Character Guidance Programs continue to receive emphasis at Site level. Results of this program have been apparent at most locations, and several persons have benefitted individually from the Chaplain's counselling program. The assistance provided by medical Corps Psychiatrists has been outstanding.

4. INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY:

a. On Thanksgiving, 24 November 1966, the morning Page work convoy was ambushed while being escorted by Pr'Line Site military personnel. One U.S. military and eight civilian personnel were killed. Six U.S. military and five civilians were wounded. A detailed description of the action is contained in Letter, 362nd Sig Co (Tropo), Subject: After Action Report, Ambush Action Pr'Line, 24 November 1966, dated 28 November 1966, with endorsements. SFC Gerald H. Bamberg, 224th Sig Det, was awarded the Silver Star for his heroic actions during this encounter, and SP4 Walter S. Rogers received the Bronze Star for Valor. Site personnel have constructed a memorial to SP4 Edward J. Bowin, who was killed in the ambush. The requirement for such convoys no longer exists. Page personnel have since moved on site.

b. There have been numerous reports of VC activity in the vicinity of Pr'Line. On 13 December 1966 three suspect VC were observed near the site entrance. Rounds were fired over the site on 20 and 24 December 1966. The Tropo site at Saigon was mortared on 3 December 1966 as was the Ban Me Thout Site on 20 December 1966. There were no casualties or apparent damage to equipment.

c. Physical security construction continues at Lang Bian Mountain, Pr'Line, Phan Rang and Cam Ranh Bay. Construction on a double apron fence around the Nui Dat site (Phan Rang) is nearing completion. Additional barbed wire was placed around Hill 184. Expansion of the Lang Bian Mountain site for additional tropo systems necessitated renovation of perimeter defenses. To improve security and expedite completion of defenses site personnel were augmented by thirty TDY signal troops from other 21st Signal Gp units. Site defense plans have also been revised.

11
SCCVNG-SS

13 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

d. The continuance of VC activities throughout the Battalion area bears out the need for constant intelligence liaison with MACV Advisors and Tactical Combat Units, as cited in previous report. This unit has since been placed on distribution for Daily and Periodic Intelligence Summaries applying to its area, and attends regular intelligence briefings at MACV Sectors.

5. LOGISTICS:

a. Continued emphasis has been placed on supply procedures and records. The Army Equipment Records System (TAEKS), and maintenance of organizational equipment. Follow-up technical inspections of subordinate units have disclosed fewer deficiencies. The wheeled vehicle deadline rate has decreased due to improved operator training and improved support from DS units.

b. Equipment beyond repair or deadlined for non-availability of parts is evacuated more rapidly. Numerous generators and wheeled vehicles have been turned in for salvage. Receipt of orgn'l repair parts has improved. Carburators, once a scarce item, are now in ample supply. Water pumps for 45 KW Model JHDW45A generators are still a critical supply item. Maintenance support from higher echelon facilities has been excellent.

c. The "Self-Help" Program is continuing within all companies. "C" Company has completed three of five two-story barracks. The 278th Signal Company has improved their area with numerous temporary structures and will start Standard IV construction during the next quarter.

d. The Battalion S-4 has coordinated and supervised the receipt of newly arrived equipment at Cam Ranh Bay, and transhipment to many other Signal Units. One each AN/MSQ-73 w/semi-trailer and 15 KW generators were transshipped to Dalat from Cam Ranh Air Force Base by Special Mission Aircraft. Two each Interim Autodin Vans found at South Beach, Cam Ranh Bay, were transshipped to Qui Nhon on the Winthrop Victory. One each Interim Autodin Van found at Cam Ranh Air Force Base was diverted for installation at Cam Ranh Bay Depot (Prov). The Battalion S-4 allocates several hours each day to check CRBAFB, Cam Ranh Bay Depot, and Cam Ranh Bay Port Facilities for newly arrived signal equipment. In many instances equipment marked for a specific location is diverted upon directive of higher headquarters. The 362nd Signal Company and "E" Company, 43rd Signal Battalion, maintain liaison teams with the Battalion S-4, Cam Ranh Bay, to locate and ship incoming supplies and equipment to their respective units.

e. On 10 January 1967, an AN/MSQ-54 was dropped into the South China Sea. It was being sling lifted by a Chinook helicopter from Phu Hiep to the Vung Ro radio site. A report of Survey has been initiated. The accident was caused by friction of the nylon slings as wind spun the van underneath the helicopter.

12

SCCVNG-SS

13 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967
Reports Control Symbol CSFOK-65

f. A 20 vehicle convoy drove from Cam Ranh Bay to Dalat without incident on 21 January 1967 with supplies and equipment for the 362nd Signal Company and "E" Company, 43rd Signal Battalion. Cam Ranh Support Command tankers carried 75,000 gallons of POL.

g. The records and files system for a Direct Exchange (DX) at Dalat (362nd Signal Company) has been established, but DX items have not been received.

h. The 278th Signal Company, "C" Company, 41st Signal Battalion, and dID, 73rd Signal Battalion received Command Material Maintenance Inspections (CMMI) in December 1966, January 1967, and February 1967 respectively. All units received overall satisfactory ratings.

6. OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

a. "Operation Holly" (code name given to the Bob Hope Show) was presented at South Beach Amphitheater, Cam Ranh Bay, in December 1966. The Battalion provided public address systems, FM radio support and portions of "dedicated" circuits. Mr. Hope presented several personnel with cigarette lighters in appreciation of their efforts. Communications and public address systems also were provided for Francis Cardinal Spellman at the Christmas Eve midnight mass. Signal personnel also assisted in the AFM broadcast and videotaping for television viewing. Several USO shows received similar communications support.

b. On Thanksgiving Day "C" Company invited 30 children and their supervisors from the My Ca Village Orphanage to dinner and a tour of the area.

c. The Battalion Chaplain continued selling crossbows, spears, chamois cloth and book-marks made by Montagnards in the Dalat area. This program returned over 370,000 piasters (approx \$3000) to the tribal people this past quarter, for a grand total since August 1966 of 600,493 piasters. The Montagnard buy tools and farming implements.

d. The men stationed at Pr'Line have continued their assistance of the Don Bosco Orphanage located five miles from the site, distributing soap and clothing. The medic makes weekly trips to the orphanage. A Christmas Party was held at the Pr'Line site for the Orphanage children and children of the Montagnard families living on site. Detachment personnel contributed 113,000 piasters for gifts. The 362nd Sig Co Headquarters gave a Christmas party for children from one of the Dalat Orphanages.

e. The Battalion Chaplain continued the Character Guidance Program by lecturing at sites or distributing written discussions. He has held

SCCVNG-SS

13 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

services at Pr'Line, Lang Bian Mountain and Dalat on almost all Sundays. The highlight of these Sunday Services was on Christmas Day when the Battalion Commander and Chaplain were able to visit Phan Rang, Pr'Line, Dalat and Lang Bian Mountain for Christmas services and, in addition, visit the men at the Gia Nghia and Bao Loc sites. The Chaplain also gave a Sunday service to the Montagnards at the Tribal Center in Dalat under the auspices of the Christian Missionary Alliance. The Montagnards presented him with a gold bracelet out of friendship for him.

f. The Civic Action program to initiate an Industrial Arts School has made little progress due to operational commitments. LtC Bang, (Mayor of Cam Ranh), and Mr. Mott, (U.S.A.D. Representative), continue to express their interest, however, and the project will be attempted as time permits.

g. The Public Information Program received impetus during the period. Several releases were made on Battalion operations and individual personnel. The most significant news item concerned SFC Banberg's award of the Silver Star. The Battalion Information Specialist visited the majority of the sites to complete individual home town releases on all personnel.

14
SCCVNG-SS

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967
Reports Control Symbol CSFUR-65

13. February 1967

SECTION II

COMMANDERS OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PART I OBSERVATIONS (Lessons Learned)

1. PERSONNEL: None

2. OPERATIONS:

TELETYPE OPERATION

ITEM: Operating 20 m.a. teletype circuit at 100 words per minute.

DISCUSSION: When operating a 20 m.a. teletype circuit at 100 words per minute using a TT-76, TI-4 and TD-5, page copy on the TT-4 is garble. This is caused by line distortion. Operation at 60 m.a. will produce good page copy at 100 w.p.m.

OBSERVATION: One hundred word per minute 20 m.a. circuits should be changed to 60 m.a. circuits to assure good page copy on the TT-4.

ANTENNA TOWERS

ITEM: Improvised AN/TRC-90A Towers.

DISCUSSION: AN/TRC-90A antennas can be erected to a maximum height of twenty-three (23) feet using the component mast sections. At one site it was necessary to raise the antennas to fifty (50) feet to overcome a close-in obstacle. Brackets were fabricated to mount AN/TRC-90A mast sections on unlettered AN/TRC-90 sections.

OBSERVATION: AN/TRC-90A antennas may be mounted on unlettered AN/TRC-90 towers when additional height is required.

ANTENNA DISHES

ITEM: Defective AN/TRC-132 Antenna.

DISCUSSION: A new AN/TRC-132 system performed poorly compared to an older AN/TRC-90B system transmitting over the same path. Close comparison of the two antennas revealed the new antennas contained structural pipe in

15
SCCVNG-SS

13 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

each segment approximately 1/8 inch larger than the same pipe in the older antenna. Comparison of critical dimensions of the parabolas indicated the new antennas were distorted, if they were in fact true parabolas at all. The Feed Horn on the new antennas were not at the focal point of the parabola.

OBSERVATION: although parabola was distorted, manual displacement of the feed horn brought it back to the approximate focal point and increased distant antenna signal strength by about seven (7) DB.

SYNCHRONIZATION AT BASE GROUP RELAY

ITEM: Lack of 64KC Synchronization for AN/TRC-132 at base group patch.

DISCUSSION: There is no pilot connector on the AN/TRC-132 when used as a base-group relay.

OBSERVATION: Synchronization can be provided by relaying base group 3. The 64KC base-group carrier appears at the Demod Out Jack and can be retransmitted for synchronization.

VHF EQUIPMENT

ITEM: VHF Voltage Protection.

DISCUSSION: Operators in VHF (TRC-24) radio vans sometime fail to shut off power supplies and circuit breakers after a power failure. As a result, when power is resupplied the surge "blows-out" ballast tubes in the PP685 Power Supply.

OBSERVATION: In case of power failure, Power Supply PP685 must be turned OFF prior to reapplication of power.

LD TRUNK RINGING

ITEM: Plug Supervision/Idleline Termination Circuits.

DISCUSSION: Long Distance Trunks installed with Plug Supervision/Idle Line Termination were subject to erratic operation, resulting in low trunk efficiency and occasional disconnect of calls in progress. Restoration to efficient operation required simultaneous extensive and continued circuit and systems alignment.

SCCVNG-SS

13 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967
Reports Control Symbol CSFUR-65

OBSEVATION: Plug Supervision/Idle Termination, although they increase trunk efficiency when operating properly are subject to erratic operation over marginal systems. Conversion to Ring Down improves trunk utilization.

3. TRAINING AND ORGANIZATION: None

4. INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY: None

5. LOGISTICS:

GENERATORS

ITEM: Generator Overheating.

DISCUSSION: The water temperature sending device utilized on some 15KW generators is a radiator mounted capillary tube. If the water level is low the capillary tube will not be immersed and will give an incorrect temperature reading. It is possible for a generator to overheat without giving an abnormal indication.

OBSEVATION: To prevent possible overheat damage to 15KW generators the radiator must be full and the proper coolant level maintained.

EFFECTS OF ALTITUDE

ITEM: Loss of Efficiency Due to Altitude.

DISCUSSION: Engine driven equipments do not perform as well at high altitudes (1000 meters +) as at sea level due to a decrease in air density. The relative fuel/oxygen mixture of engine driven equipment is changed and can be only partially compensated.

OBSEVATION: Loads assigned to vehicles and generators operated at high altitudes must be reduced to compensate for lower efficiency.

OTHER: None

Part II - Commanders Recommendation

Appropriate action has been taken on all observations contained in Section II, Part I. The following recommendations are made. (Parenthetical reference indicates discussion)

17

SCCVNG-SS

13 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

1. PERSONNEL:

a. Reassignment instructions should be expedited. (Page 4, Para 1b(2).)

b. Personnel data for units deploying to RVN should be forwarded directly to the servicing Unit Personnel Section. (Page 4, Para 1b(2).)

2. OPERATIONS: None

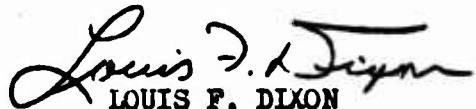
3. TRAINING AND ORGANIZATION:

a. The Modified Table of Organization and Equipment being submitted in February should be implemented as soon as possible. (Page 9, Para 3a.)

4. INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY: None

5. LOGISTICS: None

6. OTHER: None


LOUIS F. DIXON
LTC, SigC
Commanding

19

SCCVNG-SY (31 Jan 67)

1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January
1967 (RCS-CSFOR-65)

Headquarters, 21st Signal Group, APO 96240 25 February 1967

THRU: Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), ATTN: SCCVOP
APO 96307

THRU: Deputy Commanding General, USARV, ATTN: AVC-DH, APO 96307

THRU: Commander in Chief, USARPAC, ATTN: CPOP-MH, APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army (ACSFOR, DA) Washington, D. C. 20310

1. Transmitted herewith is one copy of Headquarters, 73rd Signal
Battalion report, Subject: Same as above.

2. Concur with observations made by CO, 73rd Signal Battalion with
the exceptions noted below.

3. The Physical Security within the 73rd Signal Battalion has shown
great improvement during the past three months, thus making them less
vulnerable to enemy action.

4. It is essential that the MTOE which has been submitted for each
battalion be approved as soon as possible so that equipment and personnel
may be requisitioned as required.

5. Sophisticated modification of tactical communications equipment,
such as the plug supervision idle line termination, as mentioned in the
report, should be carefully evaluated and tested prior to installation.
Although such modifications are theoretically feasible, they are often
impractical because of lack of stable communications circuits, parts,
and trained personnel.

6. The 73rd Signal Battalion logistical problem has decreased during
the past quarter due to improved operator training and improved support
from area support activities.


HUNTER L. SHARP
Colonel, SigC
Commanding

Incl 1

18

20
SOOVOP (31 Jan 67)

2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967
(RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST SIGNAL BRIGADE (USASTRATCOM), APO San Francisco
96307 14 MAR 1967

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVC-DH, APO
96307

Commanding General, USASTRATCOM, Washington, D.C. 20315

1. IAW AR 1-19, subject report from the 73d Signal Company is
forwarded.

2. Concur with the Commander's Observations and Recommendations
as modified by 1st Indorsement.

William D. Higgins

Incl 1

17

21

AVHGC-DH (13 Feb 67)

3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 15 APR 1967

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 January 1967 from Headquarters, 73d Signal Battalion (Support) as indorsed.

2. Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference Paragraph 1b(6), Section I, Page 4; and Paragraph 1, Part II, Section II, Page 17, concerning personnel strength accounting: Concur.

(1) A problem exists in the strength accounting system for units assigned and attached to the 1st Signal Brigade (STRATCOM). This principally is due to personnel strength accounting being performed for STRATCOM units at the 7th Data Processing Unit, Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland. The 12th Data Processing Unit has supported the 1st Signal Brigade on many data processing requirements primarily because the 7th Data Processing Unit has been unable to respond expeditiously to the needs of this organization.

(2) A recommendation is now being discussed at USARPAC that servicing for units assigned and attached to the 1st Signal Brigade be transferred to the Data Processing Activity in Hawaii. It is felt that a more responsive system would result. Total integration of the 1st Signal Brigade into the USARV strength accounting system would alleviate many of the difficulties now experienced with monthly personnel rosters, morning reports, AOR, personnel requisitioning and maintenance of authorized strength.

b. Reference Paragraph 1c, Section I, Pages 5 and 6, concerning personnel shortages: Since the 73d Signal Battalion is a USASTRATCOM unit, all personnel actions are processed through USASTRATCOM channels, rather than through USARV.

c. Reference Paragraph 3a, Section I, Page 9, and Paragraph 3, Part II, Section II, Page 17, concerning the submission of MTOE: This headquarters does not process MTOE of units of USASTRATCOM. MTOE's of all such units are processed through USASTRATCOM channels.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Stanley E. Schmitz
STANLEY E. SCHMITZ
Major, AGC
Asst. Adjutant General

GPOP-OT (13 Feb 67)

4th Ind

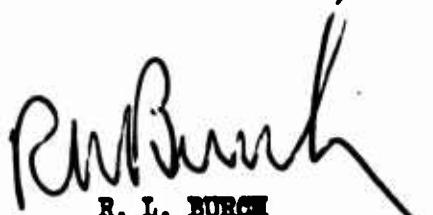
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 January 1967(RCS CSFOR-65) - Hq 73d Sig Bn (Spt)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 5 MAY 1967

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

1. This headquarters concurs in the basic report as indorsed.
2. Reference paragraphs 2a and 2b, 3d indorsement. Department
of the Army is currently reviewing a recommendation to assign data
processing responsibility in the strength accounting system for all
units in the Pacific area to Headquarters USARPAC.
3. Reference paragraph 2, Part I, Section II. This headquarters
has requested additional information from USARV concerning the
AN/TRC-132 Antenna to determine the extent of the problem and if any
assistance is required from this headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



R. L. BURCH
LTC, AGC
Asst AG